

Message Text

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20

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-25 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 OMB-01 GAC-01 RSR-01 /129 W

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R 160935 Z MAY 73

FM USINT CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3050

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAIRO 1455

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EG

SUBJECT: CAIRO PRESS NOTES

1. MAIN STORY IN AKHBAR AND GUMHURIYYA MAY 16 IS TEMPORARY STOPPAGE OF OIL PUMPING BY LIBYA, IRAQ, KUWAIT AND ALGERIA . AHRAH GIVES MAIN COVERAGE TO REPORTS FROM BEIRUT ABOUT DIFFERENCES OF VIEW BETWEEN PALESTINIANS AND LEBANESE GOVERNEMENT.

2. MAY 15 PRESS GIVES MAJOR PLAY TO REMARKS MADE BY SADAT BEFORE PEOPLE' S ASSEMBLY ON MAY 14. AKHBAR GIVES FULLEST COVERAGE, REPORTS THAT SADAT MADE FOLLOWING POINTS:

(A) IN ARAB RELATIONS, BILATERAL CONTACTS WERE MORE IMPORTANT THAN SUMMIT CONFERENCES; AND SUCH
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BILATERAL CONTACTS WERE CONTINUING. REGARDING POSITIONS OF VARIOUS ARAB COUNTRIES, " KING FEISAL WAS WITH US, IRAQ IS PARTICIPATING, SYRIA IS WITH US . . . AHMAD ISMAIL IS COMMANDER OF THE EGYPTIAN AND SYRIAN ARMIES" (HE DID NOT MENTION LIBYA).

(B) THE BATTLE, SAID SADAT, IS NOT CONFINED TO THE MILITARY BATTLE ON THE CANAL; IT MIGHT BE PROTRACTED, AND IN ANY CASE INCLUDES " THE BATTLE OF AMERICA' S INTERESTS, THE BATTLE OF ENERGY, THE BATTLE OF THE ARABS . . . BIG BATTLES FOR WHICH WE MUST PLAN AND COORDINATE . . ." SADAT NOTED THAT MILITARY CONFLICT WAS PART OF THE GREATER CONFLICT; YET HE ALSO SAID THAT IF HE PASSED ON THE BURDENS OF THE CONFRONTATION WITH HIS ENEMIES AND FINESSED THE ISSUE TO 1974 OR 1975, " I SHALL BE A TRAITOR TO MY COUNTRY." (COMMENT: SADAT' S REMARKS AS PUBLISHED REVEAL ESSENTIALLY NOTHING NEW IN EGYPTIAN POSITION, BUT REFLECT A SLIGHT MODERATION OF TONE-- IF NOT CONTENT-- FROM PREVIOUS STATEMENTS ON NEED FOR " SHOCKS," AND IMMINENCE OF ARMED CONFLICT. " THE BATTLE" WAS DIFFUSED IN MEANING TO COVER (A) EGYPT' S INTERNAL STRUGGLE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC CONSTRUCTION; AND (B) AREA- WIDE CONFLICT INVOLVING VARIOUS MEANS OF PRESSURE ON ARABS' ENEMIES.)

3. MAY 16 REPORTS HAFEZ ISMAIL' S DEPARTURE FOR PARIS MAY 15, CARRYING LETTER FROM SADAT TO POMPIDOU. ACCORDING TO MAY 15 AHAM, ISMAIL IS TO SPEND FOUR DAYS IN FRANCE, THEN PROCEED TO MADRID BEFORE RETURNING TO CAIRO.

4. PRESS NOTES THAT MALTESE PRIME MINISTER DOM MINTOFF ARRIVED IN CAIRO IN EARLY AM MAY 16 AT INVITATION OF DEPUTY PM HATEM.

5. EGYPT/ SAUDI ARABIA. PRESS NOTES, IN UNUSUALLY LOW- KEY ARTICLES, THAT FEISAL DEPARTED CAIRO FOR PARIS MAY 14 AFTER TWO DAYS OF TALKS. MAY 16 PRESS CARRIES PHOTOS OF MEETING REPORTEDLY HELD BETWEEN SADAT, SAUDI FOMIN SAQQAF, AND FEISAL' S ADVISOR KEMAL ADHAM. (ADHAM REPORTEDLY ARRIVED WITH FEISAL ON MAY 12 TH AND REMAINED BEHIND; SAQQAF ARRIVED IN CAIRO SEPARATELY.)

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6. EGYPT/ LIBYA. PRESS STATES SADAT MET WITH LIBYAN RCC MEMBER ABU BAKR YOUNIS MAY 15. YOUNIS, WHO WAS REPORTEDLY IN CAIRO ON ONE- DAY VISIT, ALSO MET WITH WARMIN AHMAD ISMAIL BEFORE RETURNING TO TRIPOLI ON SAME EVENING. MAY 15 PRESS NOTES THAT SADAT " INQUIRED AFTER HEALTH" OF RCC MEMBER AWAD HAMZA , WHO WAS REPORTEDLY

IN MAADI MILITARY HOSPITAL FOR UNSTATED REASONS. (LAST
WEEK PRESS REPORTED THAT HAMZA AND RCC MEMBER ABDEL
MUN' IM AL- HUNI MET WITH SADAT ON MAY 8.)
GREENE

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